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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

## EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

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# Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume XII

September 1958

Number 1

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

Ad 8-10 Abell, Elizabeth. Westward, Westward, Westward; The Long Trail West and the Men Who Followed It; pictures by Leonard Everett Fisher. Watts, 1958. 237p. (Terrific Triple Title Series) \$2.95.

A collection of reprints excerpted from books and short stories about the westward movement in America. While the material used is good, some of the selections seem fragmented because they are separated from their texts. The choice of reprint has tended to rather sedate writing, and it is probable that the reader who would enjoy the book would enjoy equally, or more, the original work in full. Of the minor portion of the book, the reprints of magazine articles, one story stands out because it is humorous and because its theme is the pioneer spirit today: Payne's "My Oregon Papa," originally published as "The Pioneer" in Seventeen.

M 7-9 Adler, Irving. Monkey Business; illus. by Ruth Adler. Day, 1957. 128p. \$2.95.

While the various tales that Adler tells are interesting reading, the description of this book by the publisher is somewhat misleading. The subtitle reads "Stories of Hoaxes in the Name of Science," but only two of the incidents were really planned as serious scientific frauds. One is the famed "Piltdown Man" fraud, and the other a falsified claim of man-made diamonds. "Moonshine from the Sun" was a newspaper-man's joke, and the theory of animal magnetism proposed by Anton Mesmer may have been false, but Adler gives no evidence that Dr. Mesmer planned to fool the public while himself cynical. The last section, "Doing the Impossible," is not really the story of a hoax at all, but is a discussion of insoluble puzzles.

R 7-9 Adler, Irving. The Sun and Its Family; illus. by Ruth Adler. Day, 1958. 129p. \$3.

A historical approach to astronomical knowledge. The author describes man's first interest in the stars and Copernican and Ptolemaic theory, the observations of Galileo, Brahe, Kepler, and Newton. The revolution of the earth and its path around the sun are considered in detail; the diagrams offer helpful clarification. Such phenomena as centrifugal force, the aberration of light, sun spots and parallax shift are explained. The characteristics of the earth, the moon and other planets are listed, and the ways in which they and the sun are measurable are noted. The author concludes this clearly written book by presenting to the reader the alternate theories of the evolution of the planets.

NR 4-5 Aiken, Joan. More Than You Bargained For, and Other Stories; illus. by Pat Marriott. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 192p. \$2.50.

A collection of eleven short stories in fantastic vein, stories combining modern back-grounds and fairy tale magic. Humor is often of the kind that may appeal to adults

rather than to children: i.e., the Wind, annoyed with his daughter for blowing without training or a license, sends telegrams of protest to the Amalgamated Union of Trade Winds, the International Transport, Propulsion and Motivation Workers Union, etc. There are some plots with originality, but the action tends to be overly complicated and there is in several stories a rather morbid strain.

R Allen, Agnes. The Story of Archaeology; illus. by Jack Allen. Philosophical Library, 1958. 246p. \$4.75.

A history of the development of archeology as a science rather than as the leisure pastime it was at one time. The great discoveries and the eminent men are reviewed as they contributed to the growing body of knowledge about civilizations of the past and to the methodology of archeology. In describing the treasures of several continents, the author has not been able to dwell in detail on any one dig; there is, however, a patent effort to relate the findings to the cultures which produced them. The book mentions the evidence of cross-cultural fertilization in the past and gives clear indication of the pooling of knowledge and its diffusion among scientists of all countries in our own time.

Ad Anglund, Joan Walsh. A Friend Is Someone Who Likes You. Harcourt, 1958. 3-5 32p. \$1.75.

yrs.

A small book with delicate and detailed drawings and some gentle thoughts, for reading aloud to small children. The author explains that animals as well as people can be friends; so, in a way, can a tree or a brook. Some people have more friends than others do, but everybody has at least one friend. The proposals that a brook shows how it likes you by letting you sit quietly beside it, and the wind shows that it likes you by following you everywhere you go, seem to strain the idea.

NR Appleton, Victor. Tom Swift and His Ultrasonic Cycloplane; illus. by Graham 5-7 Kaye. Grosset, 1957. 182p. \$1.

A bad attempt at a scientific adventure story, in which the "science" is implausible and the adventure thoroughly stereotyped. Tom Swift, Jr., sets out at the head of a large rescue party into the jungles of New Guinea, where he encounters every type of jungle menace, discovers a hidden mine containing large deposits of several kinds of rare earths, and captures the crooks who are exploiting it. The only attempt at characterization is to make Tom completely infallible, superhumanly noble and courageous, and, of course, a scientific genius.

R Asimov, Isaac. Building Blocks of the Universe. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 9-12 256p. \$3.

A review of the 101 elements of the periodic table (element number 102 was synthesized as the book went to press). Presented with enthusiasm, the material in the book will probably be read with relish by adults as well as young people, since it is excellent introductory information. Some of the elements are discussed in separate chapters, others in related groups. The author describes some of the research and many of the discoveries made as the table of elements was filled in over the years. The way in which elements are obtained, and some of the uses of each; the significance of the name of the element; the characteristics of each, and structural relationship to other elements are included.

Ad Ball, Zachary. Young Mike Fink; portrait by Paul Lantz. Holiday House, 1958. 5-7 196p. \$2.95.

An adventure story about the now legendary hero of the keelboatmen. Mike is described as he gets his first gun, works as a ranger, and then as a member of a keelboat crew. Boastful, pugnacious and boisterous, Mike is a vivid character. Descriptions of river



travel in frontier country are exciting. The book does not have quite the pungent tall tale flavor of Bowman's Mike Fink (Little, 1957) and the unity is somewhat impaired by the introduction of a love affair between two of the keelboat passengers.

Ad Bannon, Laura. Jo-Jo the Talking Crow. Houghton, 1958. 48p. \$2.25.  
2-4

Andy rescues a baby crow one day and makes a pet of it. It becomes a nuisance and is banished to a farm but returns, rescues a valuable ring and is allowed to stay. Not an outstanding story, but mildly pleasant. The main appeal will come from the illustrations.

NR Belden, Shirley. Sand in My Castle; decorations by Genia. Longmans, 1958.  
7-9 179p. \$2.75.

Judy Burritt goes to help an older girl, Ellie, run a gift shop on Cape Cod, hoping also to work seriously at her hobby of photography. Much is made of her need to find herself and to escape from her mother's domineering love, but the author is never able to bring Judy alive or make her problem seem real. The plot that accompanies this attempt at character formation is minimal: Judy and Ellie are fabulously successful with the shop, open a restaurant as well, and acquire permanent beaux, all in the space of one summer. Typical of the magic wand kind of success they have is Judy's success in selling her photographs, though she apparently knows nothing of the techniques which would make her work of professional caliber, and relies strictly on her artistic intuition.

R Bergaust, Erik. Rockets and Missiles. Putnam, 1957. 48p. \$2.  
6-10

A collection of photographs of the rockets and guided missiles that have been developed by the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Prefaced by an explanation of the principles of missile propulsion and guidance, the photographs of both research and operational missiles used in our defense program follow. The information given for each projectile is in two sections: a list of approximate specifications for velocity, weight, engine, length, payload, etc., and a brief statement about the important or distinguishing features and the contribution of each in the over-all missile program. A reader with special interest in the material found in the book will probably be familiar with much of the terminology, but neither the one-page glossary nor the introduction serves adequately to explain the terms for the neophyte.

R Bishop, Richard W. From Kite to Kittyhawk; illus. by John Teppich. Crowell,  
5-7 1958. 211p. \$3.

A history of the men whose dreams, inventions, and experiments advanced the mastery of the air. From the drawings of da Vinci to the first flight of the Wright brothers, a series of pioneers flew in balloons, parachutes, and gliders. The work of contributors in the fields of aerodynamics and aircraft design is described, and a brief section is devoted to the latest developments in aviation. Appended are a bibliography, an index, a list of early experimenters whose lives were lost, and a chronological list of events in the history of flight.

Ad Booth, Esma (Rideout). Kalena; illus. by E. Harper Johnson. Longmans, 1958.  
6-8 181p. \$3.

The story of Kalena, an African girl of marriageable age, who lives in a remote village of the Belgian Congo. Half her marriage payment is used to send Kalena to school for a year; here she sees a new culture and decides that she wants to combine the best from both cultures in her own life. She meets and falls in love with Sana, a medical student. Released from her arranged marriage, Kalena is free to work with Sana to help their people toward a better way of life. The chief weakness of the book is its

oversimplification of serious problems. For instance, segregation is never mentioned, although it obviously exists. Some of the younger Negroes give up a plan to strike for better pay and decide instead to form a club for discussion and understanding. Although the characters are one-dimensional and the style of writing is uninspired, the unusual background of the book and its theme of the integration of old and new patterns of life give it merit.

R Boyd-Orr, John. The Wonderful World of Food; The Substance of Life; consultant, Ritchie Calder; art, Barrington Barber, et al.; diagrams, Isotype Institute, Jeffrey Lies. Garden City Books, 1958. 69p. \$3.45.

A history of men and food: the cultivation, experimentation with, and distribution of food in the past and today. How plants make food and how the human body uses it, how diet affects health and how the United Nations, through the Food and Agricultural Organization, is working to eradicate the ills caused by malnutrition, are told in a text that is interesting although rather loosely organized. As in other books in this series, the oversize pages are marred by a plethora of illustrations in several styles.

R Brown, Margaret Wise. The Dead Bird; illus. by Remy Charlip. Scott, 1958. K-2 47p. \$2.75.

A simple, direct, poignant presentation of death. Some children find a dead bird; they bury the bird and hold a service; they put up a stone and decorate the grave with flowers and sing about the bird. The straightforward text is well integrated with the illustrations. It should be noted that two pictures of the gravestone represent some difference in the inscription. This is the sort of material which the librarian may wish to circulate with discretion.

NR Brucker, Margaretta. New Boy in Town. Ariel, 1958. 180p. \$3. 7-9

Judy, who had been very close to her father since her mother died, falls in love with a boy who has just come to town. She finds that her father has been less than frank with her when he announces that he is going to marry Steve's mother, a widow. Father and daughter are presented as dear companions, so that his secrecy is inconsistent. Judy decides to spend a year with her grandmother in order to have time for all to adjust. Plot is thin, characters are stereotyped, and the values presented in the book leave much to be desired.

Ad Buchheimer, Naomi. Let's Go to the Telephone Company; illus. by Barbara Corrigan. Putnam, 1958. 48p. \$1.95.

A fairly simple explanation of how telephones, both manual and dial, operate. Illustrations of dial plants and switching networks are rather complex. As usual with this series, the pictures show children visiting the telephone company, but they do not appear in the text, which is presented in a straight factual manner. The explanations are not quite as clear and detailed as those of Schneider's Your Telephone and How It Works (Whittlesey House, 1952), but the book will be useful for social studies and beginning science classes.

NR Burress, John. Punkin Summer; illus. by Roberta Moynihan. Vanguard, 1957. 4-6 212p. \$3.

Punkin Bradley has an eventful summer: he learns to control his temper, earns money, becomes interested in weaving, and makes a new friend. Punkin learns from his grandmother the intricacies of the hand loom. The relationship between the boy and his grandmother is sympathetically drawn, but that of the older woman and her daughter (Punkin's mother) is tense and rather unpleasant. The book suffers from an excessive use of dialect, a plethora of sub-plots, and a concentration of attention upon the art of weaving. Were this a skill more widely practiced, the book might be of



more interest. A glossary of weaving terms is appended.

R Calder, Ritchie. The Wonderful World of Medicine; diagrams, Isotype Institute; 6-9 art, A. Bailey, et al. Garden City Books, 1958. 69p. \$3.45.

A history of medical science which, while written in an interesting style, is somewhat loosely organized and is not indexed. The growth of the profession of medicine, the war against germs, the great discoveries, and the recent advances in disease control are described. The author gives brief explanations of the structure and functioning of the circulatory, nervous, and digestive systems; genetics and endocrinology are also remarked upon. Many of the excellent illustrations are in themselves attractive as well as informative, but the notable flaw of the book is the crowding of oversize pages by the illustrations of various periods, techniques, color schemes, and sizes.

NR Cameron, Polly. The Dog Who Grew Too Much. Coward-McCann, 1958. 39p. 1-3 \$2.25.

Slight story of a dog who causes her owner embarrassment because of her size and her obstreperous behavior. The owner, a bachelor, leaves his dog alone all day; not a very good example of how to care for a pet. On the other hand, he gives up his job and moves to the country rather than give up his very large dog; such extreme devotion does not seem realistic. The dog has a litter, and the puppies repeat their mother's bad behavior. Their owner does not object to the puppies playing catch with the eggs in the henyard. All the humor in the book centers upon the theme that troublesome behavior is amusing.

R Cary, Sturges F. Skyscraper Island; How Ships Built New York; maps and 4-6 drawings by Walter Galli. Coward-McCann, 1957. 96p. (A Challenge Book) \$1.95.

A history of the city of New York as the great shipping center of the world. The first explorations, the settlement and growth of New York, and some of the important figures who contributed to that growth are viewed chiefly from their relationships to the city as a port. Maps illustrate in detail the shoreline, waterways, bridges, canals and tunnels of the area. The last chapter, entitled "The Day New York Became a Ghost Town," is a vivid illustration of the importance to the whole New York community of harbor activities: it describes the state of emergency that obtained when 3,500 tugboatmen went on strike. The style is quite lively and the presentation well balanced. The index is very brief and does not seem adequate.

R Chalmers, Mary. Throw a Kiss, Harry. Harper, 1958. 32p. \$1.25. 3-5 yrs.

A kitten named Harry wanders off while his mother is talking to a friend, climbs to the roof of a house and has to be rescued by a fireman. Harry's mother tries to get him to throw a kiss to the nice man who carried him down the ladder. There is appeal of all childhood in the pictures of Harry as he shyly hangs back. Mother apologizes to the nice man, and walks off. Harry then throws a bashful kiss. The small amount of print and picture on each page, the use of only one color, and the small size of the book itself combine in complementary and engaging simplicity.

M Copeland, Frances. Land Between: The Middle East; illus. with photographs. 6-8 Abelard-Schuman, 1958. 160p. \$3.

The countries of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Iraq are described in a style that is always informal and frequently careless. The author has lived in the Middle East and writes with some authority of the clothes, foods, holidays, and customs of the people. The publisher's statement that the book is "completely free of politics or political bias" is indeed true; the author has ignored the politics of the Middle East. Folk-

lore and Biblical stories are interpolated in the text in some places without indication that the material is not part of the context of factual information. The book is of interest primarily for the observations of the culture and the details of daily living that can be best made by one who has been a resident.

R Decker, Duane. Long Ball to Left Field. Morrow, 1958. 217p. \$2.95.  
7-10

An interesting addition to the author's series about the Blue Sox, with the same good baseball, and told with a touch of humor. Mike Jaffe, an exasperating but likable young pitcher, refuses to be converted to an outfielder even when his hitting becomes the sensation of the league. His father had trained him to pitch, he likes pitching, and he is puzzled and resentful that the Sox only want him as a long-ball hitter. Even when he gives in to the pressure to convert, he is so sympathetic to the opposing pitchers that he can't think like a hitter. Finally, however, he comes to enjoy his new position and becomes a valuable man to the club. There is no great depth to the characterizations, but Mike's gradual change of heart and the frustration and bewilderment of the management and the rest of the club are all realistically portrayed.

Ad Disney, Walt. Worlds of Nature; by Rutherford Platt and the staff of the Walt  
4-6 Disney Studio; based on the Walt Disney Motion Picture Series "True-Life Adventures." Simon and Schuster, 1957. 176p. \$4.95.

Information and photographs from twelve Walt Disney films: African Lion, Arctic Adventure, Bear Country, Beaver Valley, Living Desert, Nature's Half Acre, Olympic Elk, Prowlers of the Everglades, Seal Island, Secrets of Life, Vanishing Prairie, and Water Birds. Many unusual and beautiful photographs in color enhance the text, which is written in lively factual style. Occasionally Mr. Platt's narration is careless: "But flowers reserve their nectar for bees" seems to imply that plants are capable of a thought process. The large size of the book makes it possible to use the clips from the films to advantage; some of these have been used in other Disney books.

Ad Eberle, Irmengarde. Rosemary's Secret; illus. by Ursula Koering. Random  
3-5 House, 1958. 140p. \$2.50.

Rosemary West, visiting her aunt, was prowling about an old, deserted family home when she realized there was a man in the house. The cross old man identified himself as her great-great-uncle Amos. Too proud to accept help from the family, he was living alone in the house and searching for the treasure he was convinced was buried there. Rosemary came to see him again but kept her agreement to tell nobody that he was there. On the day her parents came to take her home, Rosemary brought them to the house. Uncle Amos had disappeared. Trapped in a secret room, he was heard calling for help. He had found the treasure. He was reunited with the adult members of the family, and helped in the purchase of Rosemary's heart's desire—a bicycle. While the plot is the usual treasure-hunt-in-an-old-house, it is told with an accelerating pace that maintains interest. The family relationships are pleasant and convincing.

Ad Epstein, Samuel and Beryl. Jackknife for a Penny; illus. by R. M. Powers.  
4-6 Coward-McCann, 1958. 248p. \$3.

Timothy Penny and his older brother Gideon lived at the farm of Cousin Bess, whose daughter, Parny, Gideon was to marry. When Gideon left to fight the Redcoats, Tim promised to stay on; this wasn't easy to do when Parny was so pleasant to the British captain who moved into the house. Tim later found that Parny and her mother were true patriots, and proved his own mettle when he made a long, cold night swim to warn the patriots that the British knew a secret plan. Knowing how much the boy wanted one, Gideon's superior officer gave Tim a jackknife that had belonged to

Nathan Hale. The writing is occasionally slangy, and some of the British and Tory characters are patterned bullies, but the plot development is consistent. A rather good adventure tale for this age group.

Ad Evers, Alf. Abner's Cabin; pictures by Leonard Weisgard. Watts, 1957. 47p. 2-4 \$2.95.

A pleasant, albeit unoriginal, tale of the growth of a community; the device used is the story of the builders and the succession of later occupants of one log cabin. Each family and each generation changes and contributes to the cabin and the community. Crowded by other buildings and forgotten by the townspeople, Abner's cabin is saved from demolition by a vigorous campaign of the mayoral candidate of Abnersville. The cabin is restored to its original condition and becomes a museum. The book may give to the child a feeling of the continuity of life and an appreciation of the usefulness of the life of each individual.

NR Fielding, Alfred. Shanghaied; A Novel for Boys Who Love Ships and the Sea. 6-7 Greenwich, 1958. 139p. \$2.75.

The story of three boys who became involved in the operations of shanghaiers at the close of the 19th century. Upon graduation from high school, one of the boys was given a yacht by his father. The yacht was used to rescue another of the boys who had been shanghaied. Characters are unreal, especially the exaggeratedly briny sailors. Conversations and descriptions are stilted, those of the boys especially. The final episode of the rescue leads the father of the boy who was saved to announce that, impressed by the behavior of the young people, he is no longer going to go on "sprees."

R Freeman, Mae (Blacker). The Story of Albert Einstein; The Scientist Who 4-6 Searched Out the Secrets of the Universe. Random House, 1958. 178p. \$2.95.

A well-rounded biography of Einstein, written in pleasant and informal style. Quiet and deliberate, this great and modest man is presented to the reader in a life story in which the portions of that life, and interests and goals of the biographee, are given proportionate consideration. The author has shown the great scientist as a man of courage and humility, and has also conveyed an inspiring example of the way in which outstanding scientists combine vision and imagination with perseverance and dedication.

R Gage, Wilson. Secret of the Indian Mound; illus. by Mary Stevens. World, 1958. 4-6 186p. \$2.75.

A book that is commendable for the restraint with which it treats of archeology, human relations and a mysterious robber. Alec and Jim, who are cousins, meet at their grandmother's farm when both come for a two week visit. Taken by their uncle, an amateur archeologist, to an Indian mound, the boys learn something about the technique used on a dig. Their finds are stolen; the boys suspect that Joe, the Indian ranger, has taken the artifacts in protest against their invasion of Indian graves. The mystery is solved rather simply: Joe catches a poacher who has been trapping illegally and has tried to scare the boys away. The boys have suspected Joe because he is an Indian, and the fact that their suspicions were based on prejudice rather than logic is handled with wisdom by the author: the matter is discussed by both Joe and Uncle Zan quite openly, and the boys see the point. The book has humor and has, also, a smooth story line. A minor flaw is the rustic flavor of the speech of some of the characters (Grandma, the taxi driver), which is absent from the speech of other residents of the same locality.

R Gendron, Val. Behind the Zuni Masks; decoration by Allan Thomas. Longmans,

7-9 1958. 214p. \$3.

When Charlie Nickerson first moved from Cape Cod to La Junta, Colorado, he felt as if he had come to a foreign country. However, the friendliness of the people in the new town and his own rapidly developing interest in the Koshare Scout Troop, soon helped him to become thoroughly oriented. Although the characterizations are perhaps not as well developed as in some of the author's earlier books, the story will have appeal and value for its description of the work of the Koshares (a real Boy Scout troop in La Junta), and for its account of the troubles that arise when the boys attempt to add some of the sacred Zuni dances to their repertoire. The story is smooth-paced to hold reader interest, and expresses a depth of understanding of the boys involved and of the Indians. Excellent material for intercultural understanding as well as a good story for general reading.

M Gibson, Gertrude Havener. Garden Dwellers; illus. by Robert Totten. Mel-1-2 mont, 1958. 32p. \$2.

Short and easy-to-read sections about earthworms, snails, pill bugs, lizards, and horned toads. Information is accurate, although not very detailed. Few of the drawings supplement or implement the text, and the fact that all the people are smiling in every drawing contributes to the impression of contrived enthusiasm. Probably more useful as additional reading material than it is for subject information.

R Gidal, Sonia and Tim. My Village in Ireland. Pantheon, 1957. 78p. \$3.50. 3-6

A first-person technique used by the authors in other books in this series is again used with great success. An entirely natural and charming picture of Irish rural life is achieved by having a family and community described by a young boy. The turn of phrase and bits of dialect are as integral a part of Paddy's speech as they would be in a folk tale. The simplicity and unity of the text are augmented by the photographs of Paddy's family and the country roundabout their farm. The manner of telling invites identification by the reader with these children in another land; the effectiveness of the book lies in this sympathetic appeal.

R Gidal, Sonia and Tim. My Village in Yugoslavia. Pantheon, 1957. 78p. \$3.50. 3-6

Tomo describes his family, friends, and school; with candor and humor he tells of the customs of the village and the way of life in a Yugoslavian mountain community. As in the other books in the "My Village Books" series, the integration of pictures and text is remarkable, the photographs and the writing being equally distinctive. A most readable presentation of information, and usable as supplementary material in many curricular areas.

R Gliniger, Kenneth Seeman, ed. America, America, America; Prose and Poetry 7-12 about the Land, the People, and the Promise. Watts, 1957. 231p. (Terrific Triple Title Series) \$2.95.

An anthology of prose and poetry about our country. The selections are from the writings of men and women through all America's history, from the colonial fathers to the present president of the United States. The book is divided into six sections: pre-Revolution, Revolution, westward movement, Civil War, the American scene, and the concepts and promises of democracy. In addition to author, subject, and title indexes, there is appended a useful index of familiar words and phrases; the book is therefore useful as a reference tool as well as being enjoyable as occasional reading.

R Golden, Grace Blaisdell. Made in Iceland; illus. by Loreen DeWaard and with 6-9 photographs. Knopf, 1958. 168p. \$3.

In the same pattern as the other books in the series, the author fills in a discussion

of the country's folk art and literature with a broad background of its history and present-day economic and cultural conditions. Wood and ivory carving, metalwork, leathercraft, weaving, needlework and knitting, and other less important handicrafts are described both as art forms and as products evolving from needs of the society. The sagas and eddas are discussed in a similar way: as literature and history, and as the expression of respect for knowledge and tradition. Considered as modern counterparts of Icelandic traditions are the government encouragement of folk arts and the lack of illiteracy in the people. Although the writing is not outstanding, the author does communicate a sensitive impression of an interesting country.

R Harrison, Ada. The Doubling Rod; illus. by Christine Price. Harcourt, 1958. 5-7 192p. \$3.

A delightful combination of fantasy, mystery, and realistic family life. The fantastic element is provided by a doubling rod, made by Mr. Hinnabel, and used successfully by Mrs. Hinnabel, Jane, and Francis in various minor family crises. The rod has the property of creating duplicates of anything wished for, and eventually is used to recover a rare Etruscan bronze stolen from Mr. Hinnabel. But before this last-minute use of magic, Mr. Hinnabel and Jane have spent a suspenseful two weeks tracking down clues, and Francis has an exciting adventure sleuthing on his own. The mystery is well-developed and the children play dramatic but plausible roles in helping their father. The family is slightly unconventional, but they are convincingly portrayed. Their attitude of respect and wonder toward the magic of the doubling rod makes both them and the rod seem natural and believable.

NR Harrison, Ann M. Pearls Are Made; illus. by Dorothy Papy. Friendship Press, 6-8 1958. 135p. \$2.95.

Donna, daughter of a middle-class Moslem merchant, comes into contact with Western ways when she attends a Mission school; eventually she rejects the old traditions and the husband chosen by her father. The book has some value as a presentation of a problem, but there is no feeling for the personal or practical difficulties of changing deep-rooted customs and values. For example, Donna is supposedly learning Western concepts of human relationships, but she and the author blandly accept the fact that she has two personal slaves; there is no indication of the basic conflicts illustrated by such a paradox. Moreover, Donna escapes the planned marriage by the simple expedient of finding a will that makes her wealthy. Both as a story and as a picture of changing ideas, the book suffers from superficiality of characterization and of insight into the culture being described.

Ad Hobbs, Barbara. Alexander's Animals. Houghton, 1958. 30p. \$2.75. 4-6

yrs.

Alexander brings to his mother a series of animal friends; each time mother suggests a reason to keep the animal out of the house. Alexander plays happily in the yard with these friends: an elephant, a crocodile, a penguin, a giraffe, and a porcupine. Each time the question has been, "Guess what I found!", and it is an enjoyable reversal of roles when mother says it to Alexander one day. What mother has found is a puppy; the reference to a live puppy is the only oblique indication that all the other animals have been imaginary. The longing for a pet, the invention of imaginary playmates and the manner in which adults accept such invention are all aspects of the book with which the small child can identify. Illustrations have both spontaneity and, echoing the text, repetition.

R Hoff, Syd. Danny and the Dinosaur. Harper, 1958. 64p. (An I Can Read Book) K-2 \$2.50.

An engaging reading book about an amiable dinosaur who leaves his home in the mu-

seum to stroll about town and play with Danny, a small boy who loves dinosaurs. The dinosaur talks (of course) to Danny's friends and plays games with them, visits the zoo, goes to a baseball game and enjoys, with a beatific smile, an ice cream cone. The author-artist has created an engaging animal character, especially appealing in the sequence in which the children pretend not to see this large creature in a game of hide-and-seek: the dinosaur's simper when he wins the game is delightful. Cartoon-type drawings and simple text are well suited to each other.

NR Hogan, Inez. The Littlest Satellite. Dutton, 1958. 41p. \$2.50.  
4-5 yrs.

A confused amalgam of gnomes, fairies, witches, moon, satellites, orbits, and rockets. Quizzy, a gnome, rides to the moon with the witch on her broom. He finds from the man in the moon that humans are building a satellite, so he and the other gnomes build, on information obtained from books in the library, a satellite of their own. The sprinkling of factual material amid all the magic and coy fantasy serves only to make that material seem as unreal as the rest of the text. The whole impression may, to a child, be quite misleading: there is a definition of an orbit, but the definition is given by Mr. Moon. How is a child to know that there are, indeed, orbits—but not a man in the moon who can talk?

R Hogarth, Grace (Allen). As a May Morning. Harcourt, 1958. 190p. \$3.  
8-10

Jenny MacArthur spent much of her time thinking of the American exchange student, Ben, with whom she had fallen in love while he was in England. Unhappy at home, wasting time at school, Jenny was not at peace with herself, especially when her exams indicated that she was not doing well enough to enter a university. When illness amongst the children in a motherless family brings Jenny into a situation where there is need of and appreciation for her help, she responds by assuming responsibility. Jenny decides, at last, that she will take special training and become a teacher; she also finds that there are other attractive males besides Ben. The book is itself an interesting commentary on the difference in adolescent behavior in England as compared to that in this country. Jenny at seventeen is an immature schoolgirl, shy when alone with a young man. Jenny's adjustment to disappointment about her exams and her sensible decision about further training, her growing understanding of her parents and her awakened concern for the problems of others are among the developmental values that make the book good teen-age fare.

Ad Hogner, Dorothy (Childs). Conservation in America; decorations by Nils Hogner. Lippincott, 1958. 240p. \$3.75.

A comprehensive discussion of the problems of conservation, their historical background and trends for future use and control of natural resources. The organization of the book impairs its usefulness: the first part deals with use of natural resources before the twentieth century; the second deals with modern conservation and control projects. Though both sections cover the same topics—wildlife, forests, water, and soil, there is apparently no attempt at parallel treatment and it is difficult to follow one topic consistently. Individual chapters are likewise rather casually organized and the index, while fairly complete, does not entirely make up for the lack of orderly arrangement in the text. Nevertheless, when read as a whole the book provides a thorough and interesting survey of the subject for general reading and can be supplemented by more specialized books for classroom use.

R Hunt, Mabel Leigh. Tomorrow Will Be Bright; illus. by Tommy Shoemaker.  
4-6 Ginn, 1958. 140p. (Ginn Enrichment Series) \$2.20.

A Quaker family joins the westward movement in pioneer times. In the five-week

trek from North Carolina to Ohio, and in the hardships encountered on the frontier, the Harveys find many adventures; their difficulties are compensated for by an increasing number of satisfactions. The combination of Quaker and pioneer interests makes the book an interesting variant among pioneer stories. The plot is episodic with several sustaining themes to give continuity. Characterization is not deep, but the characters are both plausible and consistent. The series is designed to provide easy and interesting supplementary reading and can be used for remedial reading or reluctant readers.

M Hurd, Edith (Thacher). It's Snowing; illus. by Clement Hurd. Sterling, 1957. 2-3 32p. \$2.50.

A presentation of assorted facts about snow: what causes snow, how it is disposed of in city and country, how animals adapt to snow, and how meteorological reports are gathered. The material is simply presented but not well organized. The stories of two small boys, one in the city and the other in the country, who anticipate and enjoy snowy weather, are included, so that the combination of fact and fiction is added to superficial treatment of the several aspects of the topic, thereby giving a diffuse presentation.

R Hutchins, Ross E. Insects—Hunters and Trappers. Rand McNally, 1957. 96p. 5-7 \$2.95.

The fascinating world of insects as they stalk their prey (usually other insects) is shown in a remarkable series of photographs taken by the author, an entomologist. The traps and pits set by insects, the poison darts and ferocious jaws of some varieties, and the light of a firefly (used by the female to lure a male who may be eaten) are some of the ways in which the insect world gets its food. The author tends, on occasion, to invest Nature with the powers of decision, but his style of writing combines, for the most part, informality and factual presentation to good effect.

R Hutchins, Ross E. Strange Plants and Their Ways. Rand McNally, 1958. 96p. 5-7 \$2.95.

A book which describes some rare or interesting plants, illustrated by excellent photographs, especially some of the long exposure pictures. The author expresses a sense of wonder about unusual plants and, probably more important in evoking reader interest in the plant kingdom, the same admiration for the marvels of structure or function in common plants. A description of the morphology and reproductive processes, and of photosynthesis precedes the discussion of some specialized adaptations and variations. Some of the oddities included are the insectivorous plants, lichens, parasitic plants, insect-pollinated plants, and plants that live in symbiotic relationships with animal life. A chapter is devoted to the adaptations some plants have made for ensuring distribution of seeds.

R Ipcar, Dahlov (Zorach). The Wonderful Egg. Doubleday, 1958. 46p. \$2.50. K-2

A picture book presentation of dinosaurs in gaily colorful pictures and brief text. The egg in the forest should have been a dinosaur egg—but what kind of a dinosaur? After a pictorial run-down of the better known breeds, the egg is revealed as being, not a dinosaur, but the first feathered bird. For the most part the pictures are reasonably accurate, although the colors that have been used for some of the animals make this a book for fun rather than an informational book on dinosaurs.

Ad Irving, Robert. Energy and Power; illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Knopf, 6-8 1958. 143p. \$2.75.

A brief introduction to the factors involved in the production of energy and power, from the simple act of lifting a small object from the ground to the production and



use of atomic power. The material is as simplified as is possible for the subject involved and could be read with relative ease by elementary school students whose interest is strong enough to overcome the handicap of the technical vocabulary. There seems some unnecessary repetition, but this is a minor fault in considering the book as a whole.

NR Jacobs, Emma Atkins. For Each a Dream; illus. by Velma Ilsley. Holt, 1958. 7-9 189p. \$3.

Kathy Vaughn is obliged to take over the whole responsibility of managing the household after her father's death—including budgeting, cooking, cleaning, painting the living room, and coping with her lazy sister and irresponsible mother; also she maintains a B average at school, has a volunteer job for one night a week, goes out on dates, and babysits to catch up on her sleep. The situation of a teen-ager assuming family responsibilities is not an unusual one, but the shallow and somewhat unrealistic characterizations of this story keep it from having much value as a picture of family life. Both the mother and sister are simply unpleasant, rather than being people with their own problems; and Kathy's much-vaunted common sense has some noticeable lapses. For example, at one point she decides to buy a television set, even though the family (including two small children) is subsisting mainly on macaroni and apple salad. However, they are saved from slow starvation when the mother rather suddenly emerges from her lethargy and remarries.

Ad Jagendorf, Moritz Adolf. Noodlehead Stories from around the World; with illus. by Shane Miller. Vanguard, 1958. 302p. \$3.50.

A collection of 64 folk tales from 36 countries. All of the stories tell of foolish people or animals; there are resemblances in content among many of the tales, and all are of the same type of humor. The collection seems, therefore, rather repetitive. A list of sources is given by the author which also contains some information on variants of the stories as they have emerged in other lands. Useful for storytelling collections, as a source for very short stories as well as for a fund of humorous tales.

R Kettelkamp, Larry. Shadows. Morrow, 1957. 64p. \$2.50. 3-5

An unusual compilation of facts about shadows and ways in which shadows can be created to entertain oneself and others. In simple language, the author discusses the familiar phenomenon of the shadow that moves with the child down the street at night, and the ways in which shadows have been of help in establishing scientific findings. Most children enjoy making shadow pictures on the wall with their hands; the illustrations make very clear how this is done. Instructions are also given for using a lamp and sheet to give a shadow show for others.

M Knowlton, William. Let's Explore beneath the Sea; illus. by Isami Kashiwagi, 5-7 and with photographs. Knopf, 1957. 139p. \$3.

A skin-diving enthusiast writes about the pleasures and hazards of diving. The differences between helmet, lung, and skin divers are explained; the kinds of equipment each uses are discussed. The dangers that exist and the safety measures that can be taken to avoid these dangers are stated, occasionally with a humor that seems out of place. Glossary, bibliography, and information about organized groups of enthusiasts of skin-diving, shell collecting and spear fishing are appended. The writing is rather careless and frequently flippant, as in the last paragraph of the book: "But why argue with a skeptical mother? Better that we slip diving mask over her head, a pair of fins on her feet, and let her see for herself. That should cool her tongue in a hurry. Meanwhile, happy diving."

NR Kripke, Dorothy Karp. Let's Talk about Judaism; pictures by Bobri. Behr-  
3-5 man House, 1957. 31p. \$1.75.

A book in which the information about the Jewish religion is almost lost amid the generalizations. Little material is here that is not available elsewhere; the attitudes of sentimentality and self-righteousness do not give any indication of the great strength or the great truths of Judaism, as does Fitch's One God (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard, 1944). Two pages are devoted to each topic, and the titles of the topics indicate the general nature of some subject matter: "Life Is Good," "The Right Way to Live," or "Life's Great Moments." Other topics are more concrete, and each double-page spread begins with a four-line poem, e.g.:

"Let all of us be very gay  
And happy on our holiday,  
And let us try to find in each  
The lesson that it tries to teach."

M Land, Myrick and Barbara. The Changing South; New Riches for the Land of  
6-8 Cotton; maps by Marian Manfredi. Coward-McCann, 1958. 94p. (A Chal-  
lenge Book) \$2.50.

A brief look at some of the economic problems that the South has faced in the past and still faces, as a result of mis-use of land and over-dependence on a one-crop economy, and at some of the solutions that are presently being tried to meet those problems. The dual economic and social pattern as one of the causes of change is omitted, with the result that the problems and solutions which are discussed are over-simplified and given an unrealistically optimistic slant. It is doubtful how much real value there is to this kind of over-simplification at the level at which this book would be used.

Ad Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. Happiness for Kimi. Morrow, 1958. 126p.  
2-4 \$2.50.

Kimi is a small Japanese girl living in a village in modern Japan. When her parents move to the city, Kimi is left behind to keep her elderly aunt company. She is too much of a tomboy to be very happy with her aunt, but in time she does learn to serve tea and arrange flowers to her aunt's satisfaction. The story is rather slight and some adult interpretation may be needed to explain to American children why Kimi's parents left her behind, especially when her father clearly was so ambivalent about the decision to do so, and was deferring to an older relative in traditional fashion.

R Lenski, Lois. Davy and His Dog; A Davy Book. Oxford, 1957. 40p. \$1.50.  
4-6 yrs.

Davy has fun taking care of and playing with his dog, Spot. Text and illustrations are on alternate pages. The small size of the book and the large print lend appeal for the beginning reader. Suitable for reading aloud to pre-school children.

Ad Lent, Henry Bolles. Men at Work in the South. Putnam, 1957. 128p. \$2.75.  
4-6

A report on twenty-three major industries in nine southern states, illustrated with photographs. The style tends to be informal; however, statistical information and industrial terminology are not consistent with the conversational tone. Organization is by industry, although several examples are given of a type of manufacture as found in a particular state. While the book does not give a broad or general picture, as does Banta's Life in America: The South (Fideler, 1951), the industries included are described in detail. Included are such recent industrial developments as plastics, television parts, and radioactive isotopes.

NR Leonard, Burgess. Stretch Bolton Comes Back. Lippincott, 1958. 192p.  
7-9 \$2.75.

Stretch Bolton accepted the managership of the Jesters with the usual (at least in sports stories) understanding that he must win the pennant and the World Series in order to keep his job. This he does after all the usual major and minor crises, including an injury that keeps him from playing, and a player who is so ambitious that he is sabotaging team spirit in an effort to cost Stretch the job. A mysterious and highly improbable foreigner shows up and gives Stretch temporary relief from the injury, whereupon Stretch sparks the team to victory and exposes the villain. A book hardly distinguishable from numerous others with similar plots.

R Liers, Emil Ernest. A Beaver's Story; illus. by Ray Sherin. Viking, 1958.  
5-7 192p.

A completely engrossing story about the life of a family of beavers. The author has named the members of the family but has in no way endowed them with any characteristics that are human, yet each of the beavers has a clear and consistent personality. The cycle of mating and birth, the marvelous intricacy of dam and lodge construction, the relationships within the family are told with factual precision and sympathetic attitude. The author writes in honest fashion, not needing to appeal to the emotions of his readers because the family he has described does that themselves.

NR McCarthy, Helen A. Lydia Longley, the First American Nun; illus. by John  
4-6 Lawn. Farrar, 1958. 190p. (A Vision Book) \$1.95.

In 1694, a New England community was raided by Indians; some of the Longley family were killed, but Lydia and her brother were taken to New France. Taken as a ward by a French Catholic family, the Puritan girl was impressed by the elegance of her guardian's lives and by the deep conviction of their faith. She became a Catholic convert and entered the Congregation of Notre Dame; her vows were taken in 1698 as Sister Sainte-Madeleine. Were the style of writing less melodramatic and the train of events less contrived, the book might be effective. A typical exaggeration is found in the first meeting of Lydia and Mother Bourgeoys, foundress of the order: a girl brought up in another faith is described as impressed and excited by the nun's story; and the long and detailed story told by Mother Bourgeoys seems contrived, since this is a sickbed visit to a complete stranger.

SpC McCaw, Mabel Niedermeyer. Our Happy Family; pictures by Priscilla Pointer.  
3-5 Bethany, 1958. 32p. \$1.50.

yrs.

Susan, age five, tells the reader about her family and the ways in which they work, play, and worship together. The values presented, such as co-operation, appreciation of others, or the importance of each individual, are all sound; the emphasis on religion indicates that the chief usefulness of the book will be in religious education collections.

R McClung, Robert M. Buzztail; The Story of a Rattlesnake. Morrow, 1958.  
3-5 64p. \$2.50

An account of one year in the life of a timber rattlesnake. The cycle of mating and the way in which young snakes are born, the shedding of the old skin and the accretion of a new button on the rattle are described. The habits of the rattlesnake are pictured as they relate to the environment and to the life around. The explanations and illustrations of the venom duct and fangs, and of the formation of rattles are clearly informative, and are of special interest as the distinguishing features of the rattlesnake.

R McClung, Robert M. Luna; The Story of a Moth. Morrow, 1957. 48p. \$2.50.

2-4

The cycle of the luna moth, from birth through all the life stages in the few days of its span, is told in simple language. The author permits the drama to speak for itself; and the survival of one caterpillar (of six) amidst the hazards of forest life, and its later emergence from cocoon as a beautiful luna, are parts of a story that needs no embellishment. The relationship of this moth to other animal life, the surrounding plant life, and the protective devices at various stages are illustrated in text and pictures. It is unfortunate that the illustrations, showing the moth as rather bright green, do not capture the delicate color of the luna.

NR Maitland, Elizabeth. The Little Red Rickshaw. Warne, 1957. 28p. \$1.25.

4-5

yrs.

A battered rickshaw is brought to a Chinese carpenter, Ah Fong. He takes it apart, fixes or has somebody else fix each part, and paints it red. And it is as good as new. Beyond the rickshaw and the names (the children are called Ah Chatt and Ah Fatt) nothing about the story is at all Chinese. The story is rather slim, and the illustrations depicting the two children dancing for joy about the mended rickshaw seem exaggerated. The little rickshaw, meanwhile, is expressing anxiety about the operation, until he realizes it is going to be a success. Then he sings.

NR Marks, (Mrs.) Johnnie Lee Stewart. Peep Holes; illus. by Joseph Raggio.

4-5 Greenwich, 1958. 29p. \$2.

yrs.

Written on a variety of topics, a book of uniformly inferior poetry. The language is mawkish and trite and some of the images presented might frighten a small child; e.g., the close of a poem about a turkey crossing the road,

"For he was lying on the highway—  
Cut right half  
Whiz . . . . . in two!  
Whiz . . . . . Whiz . . . . ."

M Mauzey, Merritt. Rice Boy. Abelard-Schuman, 1958. 68p. \$3.

4-6

While some interesting information about comparative methods of growing rice in different countries is given in this book, the text is poorly organized and confusingly interrupted by irrelevant material. Rice Boy stows away on an America-bound ship so that he can achieve his dream. The author then gives brief descriptions of Rice Boy's parents and grandfather, followed by a double-page spread about the Great Wall of China. In episodic treatment, aspects of primitive rice cultivation in China are described and illustrated. Typical of the loose organization is a section entitled "The Emperor." On the page are three paragraphs about the Emperor and two about Rice Boy. Correspondence from rice-growers in other parts of the world affords some interesting material. The last few pages, "Discovery," pick up the neglected story line and present Rice Boy with an award at a televised banquet. The reader is not informed beyond the fact that Rice Boy (Dr. Lo Feng Lo) has discovered a chemical. The lithographic illustrations are unusual and are of variable quality.

R Maynard, Olga. The Ballet Companion. Macrae, 1957. 175p. \$3.75.

6-12

A detailed guide to four ballets—Le Sylphide, Le Pas de Quatre, The Nutcracker, and Cinderella—supplemented by a brief history of ballet and a glossary of ballet terms and basic technique. The author tells the story of each ballet and these could be used for introducing the ballets in storytelling, although the writing is not out-

standing. Also given is the history of each ballet, remarks on the music and the dancing, and brief biographies of composer, choreographer, and dancers who have been famous in its leading roles. The book is so exhaustive that it will probably be most enjoyed by readers seriously interested in ballet, and the emphasis on ballet's standards and traditions has much value. Nevertheless, there is much information here to interest the casual ballet fan as well. There are many excellent photographs of famous dancers.

NR Monckton, Ella. Tim Minds the Shop; illus. by Patricia W. Turner. Warne, 4-5 1957. 43p. \$1.  
yrs.

People in animal's clothing are what the small river residents in this book seem. Mr. and Mrs. Water-Rat leave their son, Tim, alone to mind the store. Tim spills food, has troubles with customers, and goes haring off after Joe, a water-rat his own age. A kindly mouse neighbor helps Tim put the shop to rights, and Joe helps also. Tim's parents come home and feel that Tim should not be scolded, because he has learned his lesson and will, next time, know how to mind the shop. Save for names and drawings of animals, there is no conversation or behavior that is anything but human.

NR Montgomery, Rutherford George. Tom Pittman, USAF. Duell, 1957. 152p. 6-8 \$3.

A biography of an Air Force pilot who survived a crash landing in northern Canada and 79 hours in 40-below-zero weather, with virtually no protection or equipment. Although one leg had later to be amputated, he badgered the Air Force into returning him to active duty, against all precedent and regulations. The life of Captain Pittman up until the time of the crash is related in some detail, in an effort to show the development of his unusual will power and determination, but the author never really succeeds in making very clear or very interesting the effect of his earlier experiences on his personality. The writing is mediocre and the tone rather dry and journalistic.

R Munch, Theodore W. and M. Vere DeVault. The Road Runner; illus. by Carol 2-4 Rogers. Steck, 1958. 30p. \$1.50.

An interesting book about an unusual bird of the Southwest. Illustration is detailed and clear, especially helpful for understanding how the road runner uses his distinguishing features. The habitat, diet, and nesting habits of the bird are described. The authors have remained carefully factual but have, with the collaboration of the illustrator, given a picture of the road runner that conveys a real personality: a friendly, rakish, spirited bird.

R Ogburn, Charlton. Big Caesar; illus. by Joseph P. Krush. Houghton, 1958. 8-12 118p. \$2.75.

Big Caesar is a huge, ancient truck which sixteen-year-old Ronnie Gaines has renovated and uses in a part-time hauling business. Although he has a certain affection for and pride in Big Caesar, he resents its peculiarity and feels that people think him strange if not ridiculous. In addition, he longs to make a good impression on a girl named Millicent and seems unable to do so. He is in a confused and generally pessimistic state of mind until the night he works till dawn rescuing people stranded by a blizzard. He comes to a better understanding of the significance Big Caesar has for him, and this step toward maturity leads to others: a new insight into his hopeless love for Millicent and a more optimistic view of his future. The subtlety of plot and characterization, and the quiet, sensitive writing style make this a book for the more thoughtful reader. The format and Krush's illustrations are distinctive.

Ad Olds, Helen (Diehl). Miss Hattie and the Monkey; illus. by Dorothy Marino. 1-3 Follett, 1958. 32p. (A Beginning-To-Read Book) \$1.

One of a series which has been graded by the publisher after testing in classes, in this case second grade classes. An organ grinder and his monkey move into a house next door to a dressmaker, Miss Hattie. Miss Hattie does not like monkeys, and refuses to make a coat and hat for Jingles, the monkey, when asked to do so by the neighborhood children. When Jingles gets an out-of-reach key for Miss Hattie, whose skirt has caught in the front door, he earns his hat and coat. While the story shows the children as kind and friendly, it does carry the connotation, based on Miss Hattie's action, that affection can be an earned reward. A word list is appended.

Ad Olsson, Lewy. Radio Plays from Shakespeare. Plays, Inc., 1958. 193p. 7-9 \$3.75.

Ten plays, adapted for royalty-free performance, and designed for production without staging. Five comedies and five tragedies have been condensed to approximately twenty pages each. The skeleton of each plot remains, and the background information is given by a narrator. Mr. Olsson has done a rather careful pruning of the lines, retaining many of the best known speeches and familiar phrases; the lines are frequently combined for condensation; only occasionally is there a substitution of the adapter's words for the author's words. The Shakespearian flavor is certainly present, yet it is a moot point whether or not young people who participate in, or listen to, these plays will be encouraged to read them as written. Teachers working with this age-level would probably want Shakespeare in the original.

AD Poole, Lynn. Frontiers of Science; illus. by Sam Citron. Whittlesey House, 6-9 1958. 173p. \$3.25.

Several current frontiers in natural and social sciences are discussed in terms of their past development and promise for the future. The physical sciences are concentrated on—miniaturization, harnessing sun-power, weather research, etc.—and the explanations in this area will be most easily followed by readers with some background, though the book is by no means highly technical and is interestingly written. In the social sciences, archeology, operations research, psychochemistry and group therapy are discussed. The chapters on psychiatry and also the one on "Nature's Worst Pain" might frighten or confuse younger children, and probably should be used with some discretion.

NR Potter, Jeffrey. Robin Is a Bear; illus. by Johannes Troyer. Viking, 1958. 4-6 79p. \$2.50.

yrs.  
A fantasy about Robin, a friendly bear, who visits Gayle, age five, after they become good friends while skating. Robin gets into the jeep, the house, even into a movie. Gayle's father, who tells the story, keeps Robin's existence a secret from Gayle's mother. Anxious to get rid of the bear, he puts a sleeping potion into a jar of honey; Robin finally goes off to hibernate. Since Robin never talks, his behavior is credible as fantasy. The people in the story are not as credible; Mother never realizes Robin exists, Gayle is interested in little but the bear, Daddy seems to have little to do but entertain girl and bear. The fact that Daddy has a small child promise not to tell her mother that they are engaging in an activity which both suspect Mother would forbid is a fault in the book. Another weakness is the way in which the Negro maids are described: Daddy reminds Gayle that the two aren't very good at remembering.

AD Reynolds, Barbara Leonard. Cabin Boy and Extra Ballast; illus. by Charles 6-8 Geer. Scribner, 1958. 250p. \$2.95.

The Andrews family—Steve, Joan, and their parents—together with two kittens and a crew of three Japanese, set sail in a fifty-foot schooner from Japan to Hawaii. The

story of the building of the boat and of the trip is interesting; and the author is careful to make nautical terms understandable, and the episode of an encounter with the edge of a typhoon both realistic and exciting. Personal relationships aboard the boat are also well-handled; everyone must make adjustments and learn to rise above petty annoyances, and Steve and Joan come to understand each other as people rather than merely as a "bossy brother" and "giggly sister." Unfortunately, the latter part of the book, which includes a volcanic eruption and a tidal wave scare, seems overly dramatic. The story is told from Steve's point of view, but will probably be of interest to both boys and girls.

NR Reynolds, Helen. Music for Melanie; illus. by Doris Stolberg. Funk & Wagnalls, 1958. 220p. \$2.95.

Melanie, who had been working hard to pass the conservatory entrance exams, was called to take care of her small cousins during an emergency at their summer camp. Anxious to get back to the piano, she and her brother started back across the lake in bad weather, got caught in a storm, marooned on an island, and helped, grudgingly, by a hermit. They won over the hermit to an interest in people and were rescued. Melanie worked hard and passed her exams, winning great acclaim at the final recital. Melanie is unrealistically presented as the possessor of all the virtues and graces and her behavior is consistently heroic. The other characters in the book are stereotyped and the outcome of the adventures is easily predictable.

NR Robinson, Geraldine. Three Kittens in a Boat. Warne, 1958. 32p. \$1.25.  
3-5

yrs.  
Three kittens go off for a boating party and picnic, equipped with a tent and cushions, food and cooking utensils. They eat, sleep, fish, and play. The illustrations show spades and chairs that have somehow appeared, and present a boat that changes in structure during the course of the story. Conversation is written in stilted language: "Oh dear! Oh dear! Whatever shall we do?"

M Robinson, Gertrude. The Mooring Tree; A Story of Jamestown. Oxford, 1957. 5-7 168p. \$3.

With his father imprisoned because of religious dissension in England, young Jason Ware stows away on a ship bound for the Virginia territory. Surviving hurricane and shipwreck, Jason finds himself a refugee in starving Jamestown colony. Here he is befriended and protected by an Indian boy. Jason works hard, achieves status in the community, is joined by his father eventually and becomes a member of the first general assembly. He becomes a suitor of Sylvania, child of Sir George Percy. The plot lacks originality and the writing is not outstanding, but the historical background is of some interest.

R Rogers, Frances. Lens Magic. Lippincott, 1957. 160p. \$2.75.  
6-8

A story of glassmaking, with the emphasis on the uses of the lens by the scientific world, beginning with the contribution by Roger Bacon to the theory of magnification and the uses of the early telescopes by such great figures as Galileo and Kepler. The microscope of van Leeuwenhoek, the analysis by Newton of the nature of white light, and the use of the microscope by Pasteur are described, as are the more recent and equally exciting developments of the camera and the giant mirrors used in observatory telescopes. Diagrams of the bending of light rays by a lens, used in various kinds of instruments, are drawn with precision in amplification of the text.

R Ruchlis, Hyman. Orbit; A Picture Story of Force and Motion; drawings by Alice Hirsch. Harper, 1958. 147p. \$2.75.



A provocative and informative book about some of the basic physical laws. To explain some of the phenomena of the space age, the author goes back to Newton's Laws. Discussing force and inertia, acceleration and momentum, action and reaction, gravity and resistance, the author clarifies, with very clear examples, the application of these principles in daily life. Photographs and diagrams are well chosen to illustrate the effect being discussed. The selection of an orbit for a man-made satellite is described in relation to what man has learned from other orbital bodies and the laws of Newton. Several problems are presented to the reader, and the explanations of the answers enable him to test his understanding of a theory.

NR Saint-Marcoux, Jany. The Light; tr. by Frances Frenaye. Vanguard, 1958. 7-9 158p. \$3.

Set in the Basque country is this story of Miré. Age eight, she is an orphan who works for a farm family. Tending sheep one day, she is knocked down by a young man, running in his haste to avoid the law. He is known as the Antelope, leader of a band of smugglers; when he finds that Miré has been blind since the accident, he brings her home to his mother. He is really the last of the line of a rich and respected family. Eventually he studies medicine, falls in love with Miré, restores her sight in a daring operation, and both devote themselves to the welfare of the sightless. Some of the Basque atmosphere is interesting, but the plot is trite and complicated, and the characters drawn with exaggeration.

M Scott, Sally. Judy's Surprising Day; pictures by Beth Krush. Harcourt, 1957. 3-4 56p. \$2.25.

Judy and her obstreperous little brother, en route to their grandmother's farm, have an all-day trip that is overcrowded with mishaps. Money is left at home by Mother, Father forgets to get gas, a tire goes flat, the family gets lost on a detour. While the recital of mishaps seems exaggerated, there are realistic and amusing bits about family life.

R Selsam, Millicent (Ellis). Exploring the Animal Kingdom; illus. by Lee Ames. 4-7 Garden City Books, 1957. 64p. \$2.50.

An excellent introductory book for zoology. The author describes the system used to classify the members of the animal kingdom, and then proceeds to a separate consideration of vertebrate and invertebrate groups; the similarities and differences within and between groups is discussed. After a section on mammals, Mrs. Selsam traces the evolutionary process, mentioning briefly the fossil remains of prehistoric animals. Habits of animals are described, such as the way in which food is obtained, the way animals may live in colonies, some protective devices, some migratory practices, and some of the animals which are useful to man.

R Shultz, Gladys (Denny) and Daisy Gordon Lawrence. Lady from Savannah; The 8-10 Life of Juliette Low. Lippincott, 1958. 383p. \$4.95.

A well-written biography of Juliette Low, founder of the Girl Scouts. Based on family papers (the co-author is Juliette Low's niece) is much of the early history of Mrs. Low's family, prominent in the settling of Chicago and deeply involved on both sides of the conflict during the Civil War. "Daisy" Low grew up in Savannah society, married an Englishman, and found herself deserted and alone in middle age. Influenced by General Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, she organized a comparable group for girls. Devoting her time and her resources to the new project, soliciting support, cajoling her prominent friends to participate, she lived to see the Girl Scouts become a strong and creative international organization. The authors do not hesitate to portray her capricious nature and erratic behavior, but Juliette Low emerges all the more vivid a personality because of this realistic treatment by her biographers. The writing is detailed, sophisticated, and candid.

M Slobodkin, Louis. The Wide-Awake Owl. Macmillan, 1958. 32p. \$2.50.  
3-5 yrs.

The story of Olga, the little owl who couldn't get to sleep. Olga asked another owl for advice, but the advice didn't help. She tried the methods that other birds and the chipmunk and the possum used, but they weren't the methods for an owl. Finally, a thrush sang them all to sleep. Ever after that, Olga was able to sleep by singing to herself as the thrush did. The illustrations are entertaining as Slobodkin's usually are, but they are somewhat repetitive. While the pictures of Olga are attractive, the idea of having difficulty in getting to sleep is one which a small child could use to the supreme disadvantage of a parent. It is also a moot point as to whether one can fall asleep while singing.

R Snyder, Louis L. The First Book of World War I; maps by Leonard Derwinski.  
5-7 Watts, 1958. 96p. \$1.95.

An interesting and informative overview of the first World War. The author has, by presenting the events that set the stage for the conflict and by making clear the relationship between the harsh treaty of World War I and the inevitability of World War II, given more than a record of one war. The book shows as well the confusion and complication of political and economic relationships between countries. Although told chronologically, the text is divided by sections that follow each other in an order that may be confusing; e.g., in one sequence are these topics: sea warfare in 1914, the war in Asia and Africa, disaster at Gallipoli, poison gas, war in the air.

R Snyder, Louis L. The First Book of World War II. Watts, 1958. 96p. \$1.95.  
5-7

In the same style as The First Book of World War I, the history of the second world war is related. From the causes of the war and from its beginning in 1939, the events of battle, the new weapons used, and the national figures involved are described. The fact that the author has not attempted detailed reporting indicates usefulness not as reference books, but as introductions to the two world wars. The writing is lively, maps are good, and the books are profusely illustrated with photographs.

M Steinmann, Elsa. The Son of the Gondolier. Pantheon, 1958. 192p. \$3.  
6-8

The story of a poverty-stricken family in modern Italy. The father of the family, a gondolier, has been killed in an accident. Gabriello, twelve years old, is fiercely determined to be a gondolier also, but he is too young. With his mother and young twin sisters, the boy must move to a low-income housing project at Murano. Here he finds work in a glass factory, and he changes his mind about a career when his first attempt at glass-blowing proves he has remarkable talent. The rosy ending, with financial troubles over, new friends all about, and a sentimental and Americanized celebration of Christmas, is in melodramatic contrast to the poverty and sadness prevalent in the rest of the book. Interesting only as it presents the seldom-described scene of Italy today.

R Sutton-Vane, Sybil. The Story of Eyes; illus. by Anthony Ravielli. Viking,  
9-12 1958. 221p. \$3.50.

Primarily a history of the human eye as it evolved with man from the first light-sensitive eyespot of the flagellata to a highly complex visual apparatus. The structure and functioning of the eye at important stages of development are explained with lucidity and accuracy. The perception of color, the adjustment of the eye from day to night vision, the ability to focus on objects at various distances, and the color of the iris are discussed in a chapter on the human eye today. The book concludes with a survey of glasses and some conjectures about the eye of man in the future. Beautifully

illustrated, the book is an excellent example of information writing that is comprehensive, factual, and stimulating. Bibliography and index are appended.

SpC Tarry, Ellen. Katharine Drexel; Friend of the Neglected; illus. by Donald Bolognese. Farrar, 1958. 190p. (A Vision Book) \$1.95.

The story of one member of the wealthy and charitable Drexel family, Katharine, who founded, in 1891, a new community called the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. The account of the years in which Katharine grew up gives an interesting picture of the Drexel establishment as well as a logical background for the way in which the child of a devout Catholic family may choose a life of dedication. The book seems designed specifically for a Roman Catholic audience.

R Taylor, Sydney. All-of-a-Kind Family Uptown; illus. by Mary Stevens. Follett, 4-6 1958. 160p. \$3.15.

The all-of-a-kind family (plus little brother Charlie, of course) now live uptown and continue the adventure of growing up. Much of the book concerns Ella, her assuming of responsibility when Mama has an emergency operation, and her romance with Jules. The rest of the family has its own share of large and small adventures, in addition to helping Ella while Mama is away and taking a lively interest in Ella and Jules. As in the other books, the pattern is episodic, with continuity given by the themes of family closeness, making friends and growing up, and the cycle of Jewish religious observances.

NR Torbert, Ruth. Snail Mail. Hastings House, 1958. 32p. \$2.50.  
3-4

A slight book of poetry in a humorous vein. Rhythm is noticeably absent and the rhyming is frequently strained to the extent that the poems are simply doggerel. An example is the poem entitled "Honey Bee," which reads:

"The buzzing bee is busy  
She's never in a tizzy  
She gathers her nectar  
And who would prevent her  
She has a stinger, it's a dinger,  
A warning from this buzzing singer."

R Turngren, Ellen. Shadows into Mist; decorations by Vera Bock. Longmans, 8-10 1958. 207p. \$3.

A maturely written love story of the early settling of Minnesota. Lovisa came to Minnesota from Sweden and was at first dismayed at the size, crudeness, and seeming unfriendliness of the new land. Her love for Nils Engberg, a Swede who was determined to become Americanized as quickly as possible, and her growing interest in her neighbors helped her to make the necessary adjustments. As in her earlier book, the author writes realistically of the problems and relationships faced by her characters, all of whom come to life as real and understanding people.

R Uchida, Yoshiko. Takao and Grandfather's Sword; illus. by William M. Hutch-  
3-5 inson. Harcourt, 1958. 127p. \$2.50.

The story of Takao is both an interesting picture of life in Japan today and a perceptive tale of a boy who might be any boy as he reaches for the prestige and responsibilities of maturity. Anxious to work with his father, a potter, Takao defeats his purpose by careless behavior. When a fire damages the workshop, Takao sells his grandfather's beautiful sword to get money. His sacrifice impresses the purchaser, who becomes a new and valued customer; it also impresses his parents. Family relation-

ships are realistic, characters believable, and style of writing is smooth.

R Ungerer, Tomi. Crictor. Harper, 1958. 32p. \$2.50.  
3-5

An entertaining bit of nonsense about the boa constrictor that was sent to Madame Bodot, who lived and taught school in a little French town. She called the snake Crictor and he became a great pet, learned, debonair and brave. The boys used him for a slide and the girls for a jump-rope. When Crictor captured a burglar by coiling around him until the police came, he was awarded impressive tokens of the esteem and affection of the townspeople. Engaging line drawings echo the restrained and elegant absurdities of the text.

M Ungerer, Tomi. The Mellops Strike Oil. Harper, 1958. 32p. \$2.75.  
K-1

The Mellops, a family of pigs, construct an oil-well; they are successful in striking oil but are discouraged by the various difficulties encountered, and abandon the project. The Mellops are hard-working but would be rather dull characters without the illustrations. Exaggerated episodes fall short of being humorous in part because there is a lack of vivacity in the text. The drawings depicting this amicable porcine family have ingenuous charm.

M Voight, Virginia Frances. Mystery at Deer Hill. Funk & Wagnalls, 1958.  
7-9 183p. \$2.95.

April Merriman, who is afraid of even the dog next door and has never been closer to nature than a resort on Long Island Sound, goes to the Maine woods to spend a summer with her young aunt. Within a few weeks the beauty of the woods and the new friends she makes transform her into an enthusiastic and capable outdoorswoman. The slight mystery concerns the activities of some poachers, one of whom turns out to be Kent Oliver, a boy April had admired very much. That problem is resolved, however, when she learns that he had only wanted to help his family's poor financial situation, and should therefore be forgiven. In the end April's aunt becomes engaged to a wealthy author living in the vicinity, who gives Kent a good job and presents April with an island. While the author has a good feeling for the beauty of nature, this value is far outweighed by the contrived plot and undeveloped characterizations.

Ad von Tessin, Marion. The Long-Haired Elephant Child. Pantheon, 1958. 48p.  
1-3 \$3.25.

A story about the elephant child who was not happy because he was different (too much hair), so he set out to find some elephant relatives who had hair. After many adventures, he reached the far north where the hairy mammoths lived. Here he found a little elephant girl who was not happy because she was different (didn't have enough hair). So the long-haired elephant child flew home with his magic eagle's feather, taking the elephant girl with him. When she grew up, she became his bride. Illustrations are vivacious; the picture book format and the fairytale plot are not as advanced as the vocabulary of the text, which demands reading aloud by an adult.

R Wills, Royal Barry. Tree Houses; with illus. by the author and Charles H.  
5-8 Crombie. Houghton, 1957. 67p. \$3.50.

An architect describes the building of tree houses, relating the evolution of a house that was actually built and grew, in stages, down to the ground to become a real house. The use of natural groupings and branching of trees in placement of a tree house is discussed, and the steps in construction of two types of houses are given in detail. Drawings and diagrams are explicit and are well correlated with the text. The author gives useful information about tools and materials. A distinguished example of format in what is essentially a handbook.

NR Wondriska, William. The Sound of Things. Pantheon, 1958. 32p. \$2.50.  
K-1

Originally issued in 1955, now presented in a new format for children. An unusual book that attempts to convey to the reader the sound of fourteen objects such as a bell, a telephone, an airplane, etc. A small image of the object is drawn centered on one page; on the opposite page are the letters of the word that expresses the sound. The page of letters is often interestingly conceived for visual effect, but the amount of meaning this would have for a child seem dubious. The sound would be best conveyed by reading aloud: since this would amount to reading "snip snip snip" as the sound of a scissors, the value of the book for children seems small.

R Yashima, Taro. Umbrella. Viking, 1958. 32p. \$2.50.  
4-6  
yrs.

A charming story of a small girl who is most anxious to use the umbrella that she has received as a present on her third birthday. Momo tries to convince her mother that the umbrella would be useful for other purposes than rain protection, but Mother isn't convinced. Finally it does rain, and Momo proudly carries her new umbrella, hearing a new sound as the rain hits the cloth. She walks alone for the first time that day: no holding hands for a big girl. Style is gentle and musical, and the illustrations are colorful and distinctive, although not all of them will be meaningful to a small child.

R Zarchy, Harry. Wheel of Time; illus. by Rene Martin. Crowell, 1957. 133p.  
6-8 \$2.75.

A most interesting and useful book which contains a survey of the measurements man has made with time divisions: the techniques, instruments, and practical applications for marking time. The sections of the book are, in general, in correspondence with man's ability to demarcate time with increasing accuracy and with increasingly complicated mechanisms. First are discussed the ways in which the orbit of the earth and the inclination of its axis determine changes: time is motion. The several calendars developed by ancient civilizations are described, and the modern calendar—with its particular solution of division into years and months—is discussed. Sundial, water clock, hour glass, and fire clock, all the precursors of the clock as we know it; the gradual refinement of clocks and watches; the contribution of the chronometer to the science of navigation; and the ways in which various sciences need to measure time with precision are carefully detailed. The last part of the book is devoted to an impressive recital of the intricacies of modern time-pieces and the setting of time-keeping standards.

M Zimnik, Reiner. The Proud Circus Horse. Pantheon, 1957. 32p. \$2.75.  
2-4

The white horse could talk and could stand on his hind legs. He was beautiful and proud, and he felt that he was stifled by circus life; he wanted to "live freely, in God's free nature." He found, however, when he ran away, that he couldn't get along all alone and that he was trained for a particular kind of life. The farmers wanted a work horse and didn't admire his tricks; the other horses were jealous. He became the property of an outlaw. When the outlaw was killed, the white horse returned to the circus, wiser and considerably humbler. The story lacks the originality and subtlety of the author's Jonah the Fisherman, having a plot that savors of melodrama rather than the happy combination of satire, fantasy, and exaggeration.

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## *Professional Literature*

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- Cleary, Florence. Blueprints for Better Reading: School Programs for Promoting Skill and Interest in Reading. Wilson, 1957. 216p. \$3.
- Eaton, Anne. Treasure for the Taking. Rev. ed. Viking, 1957. 322p. \$4.
- Library Association. Chosen for Children; an account of the books which have been awarded the Library Association Carnegie medal, 1936-1957. L.A., 1957. 89p. illus. 16s.
- Logasa, Hannah. An Index to One-Act Plays for Stage, Radio, and Television; 4th supplement, 1948-1957. Faxon, 1958. 245p. \$7.
- Miller, Bertha and Field, Elinor, editors. Caldecott Medal Books: 1938-1957. Horn Book Papers, V. II. Horn Book, 1957. 329p. illus. \$10.
- Sell, Violet and others. Subject Index to Poetry for Children and Young People. A.L.A., 1957. 582p. \$9.
- Smith, Irene. A History of the Newbery and Caldecott Medals. Viking, 1957. 140p. \$3.
- Wilson, H. W., firm. Children's Catalog. 1957 supplement to the 9th edition, 1956. Ed. by Dorothy Herbert West. Wilson, 1957. 63p. Service basis.
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